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## CIVIL HOSPITAL AFFAIRS IN MANILA

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.—Previous to the investigation made by Miss Delano, at our request, of the affairs of the Civil Hospital in Manila, we had refused to give space in this department to any controversy in regard to that subject, and we have refused since then to open the discussion unless so requested by Miss McCalmont herself. Our first communication from Miss McCalmont, marked "personal," was dated April 11, 1911, to which we replied as follows:

April 13, 1911.

MY DEAR MISS MCCALMONT: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant and to say in reply that Miss Delano sent me a letter from Dean Worcester, and that she consents to the publication of such parts of it as bear on her report in the JOURNAL.

I am willing to give space to these portions of his letter, upon a request from you, which shall appear with it, or to any other contributions you wish to send under the same condition.

Our pages for the May JOURNAL close absolutely on the evening of April 18.

SOPHIA F. PALMER,
Editor-in-Chief.

April 13, 1911.

MY DEAR MISS PALMER: Upon further consideration of the entire Civil Hospital matter, I feel obliged to urge you to publish in the May JOURNAL OF NURSING, a statement, either from yourself, Miss Delano, or Secretary Worcester, which will counteract the wrong impressions given by Miss Delano's so-called "report."

My own sense of justice tells me that this is not too much to ask of you, and from advice I have sought and obtained from various sources, I am firmly convinced that the matter is sufficiently vital to warrant such insistence.

Very truly yours,

M. E. MCCALMONT, R.N.

Portions of letter written by Secretary Worcester to Miss Delano, received by her on February 28, 1911, and referring to an editorial in the January JOURNAL, page 245, under the heading, "The Controversy Regarding Civil Hospital Affairs in Manila."

The Government of the Philippine Islands,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C., February 10, 1911.

MISS JANE A. DELANO,
President Nurses' Associated Alumnæ,
Washington, D. C.

MADAM: . . . It is highly important at this time, when we are actually establishing at Manila a great, modern General Hospital, with every possible facility and with the best of quarters for nurses immediately connected with it, and when we are doing our utmost to develop the work of training Filipino girls as nurses, that any existing misapprehension at this end of the line as to what has been done should be dissipated as promptly as possible. . . .

Referring to the fourth full paragraph on page 246, should you not have stated that the Governor-General made his own investigation into the facts of the case? . . .

Referring to the third full paragraph on page 247, the changes in the salaries of nurses were, of course, not made by the Civil Service Board, which has no authority in the premises, but were made by the Director of Health with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Miss McCalmont opposed the reduction of salaries in entrance positions, but it has been our experience that nurses are better satisfied to enter the service at moderate salaries with the certainty of fairly rapid promotion as a reward for faithful and efficient service, rather than at larger salaries with little possibility of promotion. What we have tried to do is to provide a suitably graded salary list while at the same time keeping within the limits of available appropriations.

Your statement that the course of training for Filipino nurses was reduced from four years to two and one-half years seems to me certain to lead to serious misunderstanding as to the facts. The Normal School course was intended to extend over a period of four years, which, however, with the vacations counted out, *became somewhat less than three years* of actual work. At present there is no prescribed time for the completion of the course. The work is carried on continuously, without the interruptions incident to the vacations in the ordinary school course, and a definite amount of work is prescribed. It must be completed before the nurse can graduate, whether the time consumed in its completion be longer or shorter.

The *minimum possible* time is two and one-half years. The time actually consumed may, of course, be very much longer. The Filipino nurses are urged to take a six months' post-graduate course, and thus far all of them are doing so, the absolutely necessary time for completing the regular and post-graduate courses being three years, or slightly more than the time actually consumed under the old arrangement.

Under the previous régime no definite course of study was really ever laid down, whereas at present, as above stated, the work is definitely prescribed, the truth being that instead of there having been a diminution in the requirements for graduation there has been a pretty stiff increase in those requirements.

Finally, Miss McCalmont was not in any way responsible for the action taken in this matter, but on the contrary the responsibility for it rested squarely upon the Director of Health and myself.

While it is far from my desire to take up the cudgels in Miss McCalmont's behalf, and while I do not approve of her publishing extracts from papers, in fairness to her it ought perhaps to be suggested that in publishing extracts from examination papers she refrained from mentioning names and was, in point of fact, replying to charges that discrimination was being made against old nurses and in favor of nurses who had recently entered the service rather than attempting to discredit the ability of any particular nurse.

There is no civil service commission in the Philippine Islands. There is a Director of Civil Service, who is chief of the Bureau of Civil Service. Examination records of employees in the service of the Philippine Islands may be inspected by any properly accredited officer of the government at any time and may be put to any legitimate use by the officer inspecting them. . . .

Very respectfully,

DEAN C. WORCESTER,
Secretary of the Interior,
Philippine Insular Government.

April 14, 1911.

MY DEAR MISS PALMER: Inasmuch as you have been fairly informed by Miss Dock and others, of the facts concerning the Civil Hospital controversy in Manila; and inasmuch as Miss Delano has been corrected in detail by the honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, concerning the inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the report of her so-called "investigation"; and inasmuch as neither the JOURNAL nor Miss Delano, since receiving this correct information, has had the fairness to take the initiative in correcting the wrong impressions made by said report;—by such lack of just action am I forced, in accordance with your letter of April 13th, to ask that that portion of the copy of the Secretary of the Interior's annual report to the Secretary of War, which gives briefly the entire history of this matter, exonerating me and placing the blame where it belongs,—be published verbatim in the May number of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. Also the copy of the Secretary of the Interior's letter to Miss Delano, wherein is set forth the true facts of the matters concerning which she has given a false impression in her report.

Copy of the annual report referred to is being mailed under separate cover. This letter is for publication.

Very truly yours,

M. E. MCCALMONT, R.N.

[The report referred to above has not come to hand at the time of going to press, on the evening of April 18, but will appear in the June JOURNAL.—ED.]

## ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

MISS AMY HUGHES writes to correct the address of the Queen's Nurses' Magazine. It is to be ordered from The Secretary, Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 58 Victoria Street, London, S. W.

MISS DOCK is leaving New York on May 1 to finish the Third Volume of the History of Nursing. Her address during the summer will be Fayetteville, Franklin County, Pa., and all mail should be sent there.